



DJJ School District Graduation

DJJ held Commencement Exercises for its high school graduates on July 26 at Birchwood High School. During the ceremony, 131 GEDs and 3 diplomas were awarded to students, some who returned specifically for this special occasion.

Doyle Roach, vice president of a Charlotte, NC construction firm and a DJJ volunteer, was the keynote speaker who spoke of his own experiences at DJJ as a youth. "Goals can be reached. They're not given. You can reach for your dreams . . . but you'll have to earn them," Doyle told students. "Never settle for less than the best and you will succeed."

Birchwood Middle and High schools are accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, and for two consecutive years, 2004-2005 and 2005-2006, the district was named a Palmetto Gold School District by the State Department of Education.

DJJ's Youth Conference 2006

DJJ, in collaboration with Safe Schools/Healthy Students, recently sponsored the Youth Conference 2006 at Central Carolina Technical College in Sumter. The conference was attended by 50 young people. Damian Johnson, DJJ's Marion County Office director and the former DJJ Clarendon County director,

developed the conference for at-risk youth with the hope that they would use what they learned as "tools to change" delinquent bad behavior.

Empowering Girls: Realities, Perceptions and Choices

On September 29, DJJ will join with Columbia College to sponsor the first

"Empowering Girls: Realities, Perceptions and Choices" symposium from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. in the college's Breed Leadership Center.



First Lady Mrs. Jenny Sanford, Judge Byars and Columbia College President Dr. Carolina Whitson are scheduled to address the symposium's morning plenary session. Six co-current workshops are part of the symposium agenda and will be led by nationally recognized experts on gender specific issues.

Workshop topics and instructors are Pregnancy Prevention, Gwen Baker, Trauma and Girls: Responding to the Real Issues, Rebecca Maniglia; Girls and Gangs, AV Strong; Girls and Economic Independence, Vicki Fecas; Female Development and Body Image, Linda Salane; Cultural Diversity and Girls, Zenobia Edwards.

Nationally recognized juvenile and criminal justice consultant Paula Schaefer is the luncheon speaker. The registration deadline is Sept. 15, and the cost is \$30. To register, call Dr. Linda Salane of Columbia College at (803) 786-3748.

DJJ Employee Recognition

Mark your calendars! The 2005-06

Employees and Groups of the Year celebration will be held on October 6 from 2 to 3:30 p.m. in the Birchwood Auditorium. A reception will follow in the Birchwood gymnasium. Seven individuals and three groups will be recognized for their outstanding work and service to the agency.



Jerry Adger and security staff Majors receive plaque from Judge Byars

The Division of Rehabilitative Services was recognized recently by Judge Byars for "Accomplishing and Maintaining an Unprecedented High Level of Security and Control at the Broad River Road Complex." Congratulations to the entire DJJ security staff.

Clothing Change for Juveniles

The "paradigm shift" taking place in the "community behind the fence" has led to a change in dress for both males and females housed in DJJ's long-term institutions. Juveniles have moved away from the "prison" jumpsuits to T-shirts, khaki pants and khaki shorts.

The new clothing is an effort to "normalize" their environment while at DJJ, in preparation for a more successful transition back to their home communities.